

Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings (2009-2011)

For each year between 2009 and 2011, an estimated 1,900 residential building fires were reported to fire departments in the United States on Thanksgiving Day and caused an estimated five deaths, 25 injuries and \$28 million in property loss.

Loss Measures for Thanksgiving Day and Non-Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings (three-year average, 2009-2011)

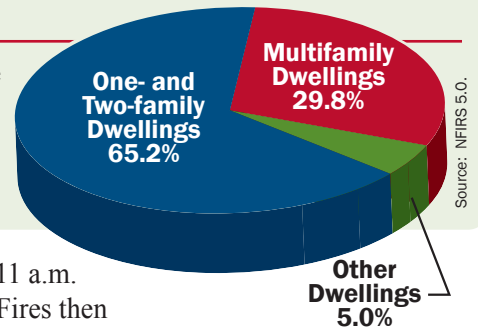
Loss Measure	Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings	Non-Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings
Average Loss:		
Fatalities/1,000 Fires	1.2	5.5
Injuries/1,000 Fires	12.4	29.4
Dollar Loss/Fire	\$11,290	\$15,450

Source: National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) 5.0.

The average number of reported residential building fires on Thanksgiving Day was almost double (1.9 times more) the average number of fires in residential buildings on all days other than Thanksgiving. The average losses for Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings, however, were less than the same measures for non-Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings.

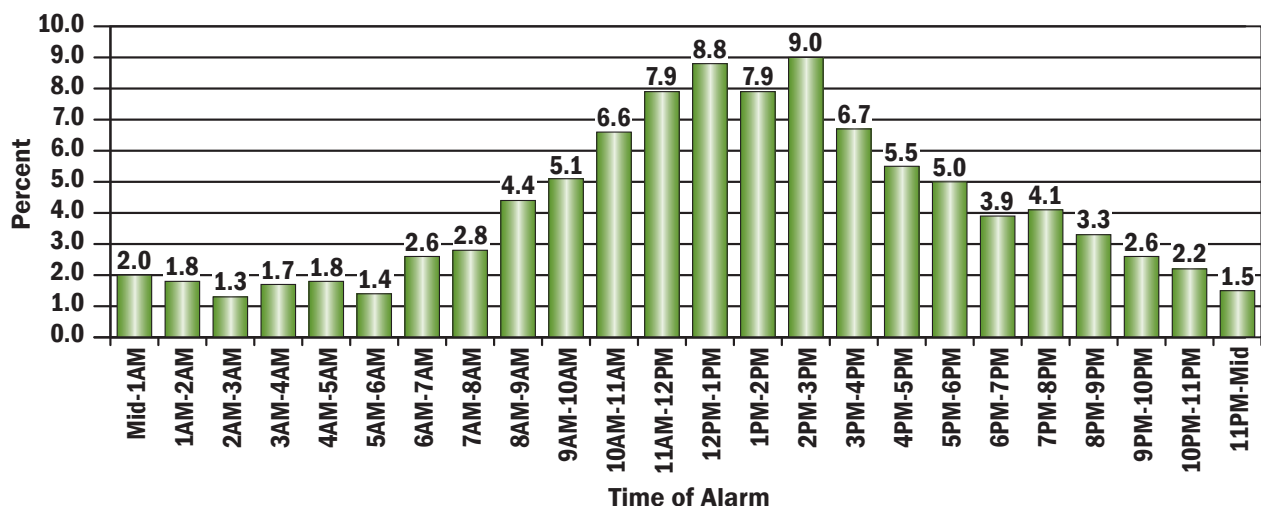
Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings by General Property Type (2009-2011)

The majority of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings took place in one- and two-family dwellings (65 percent) followed by multifamily dwellings (30 percent).



Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings occurred most frequently from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., when many people most likely were preparing Thanksgiving dinner. Fires then declined throughout the evening reaching the lowest point during the early morning hours (2 to 3 a.m.).

Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings by Time of Alarm (2009-2011)



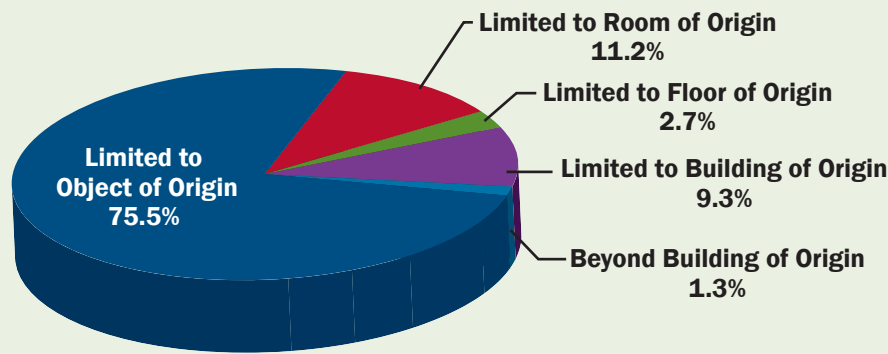
Source: NFIRS 5.0.



FEMA



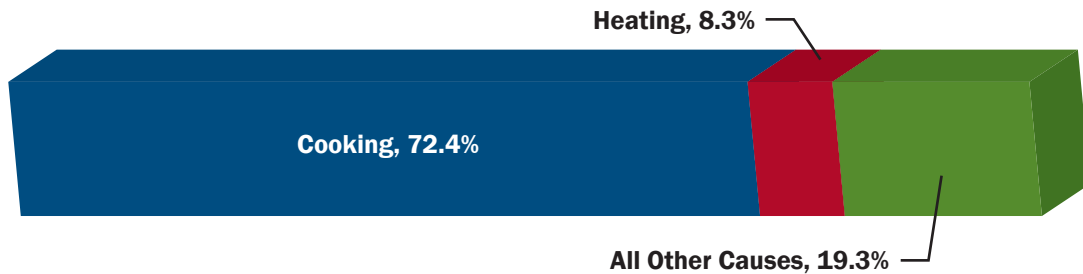
Extent of Fire Spread in Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings (2009-2011)



Source: NFIRS 5.0.

In 76 percent of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings, the fire was limited to the object of origin. An additional 11 percent of these fires were limited to the room of origin. The remaining 13 percent of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings extended beyond the room of origin.

Causes of Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings (2009-2011)



Source: NFIRS 5.0.

Note: Percent of Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings with sufficient data to determine cause.

Cooking fires in residential buildings occurred more often on Thanksgiving Day than any other day of the year. Cooking was, by far, the leading cause of all Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings at 72 percent. By comparison, cooking was the cause of 46 percent of residential building fires that occurred on all days of the year other than Thanksgiving Day. Heating, at 8 percent, was the next leading cause of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings.

For additional information on home fire prevention, please visit http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/.

Sources: NFIRS and the National Fire Protection Association.

Notes: 1. Thanksgiving Day fires are defined as fires that occurred on Nov. 26, 2009, Nov. 25, 2010, and Nov. 24, 2011.

2. The average loss measures computed from the NFIRS data alone in the loss measures table will differ from the average loss measures computed from national estimates.



FEMA

